AKIRA 11™

KATSUHIRO OTOMO

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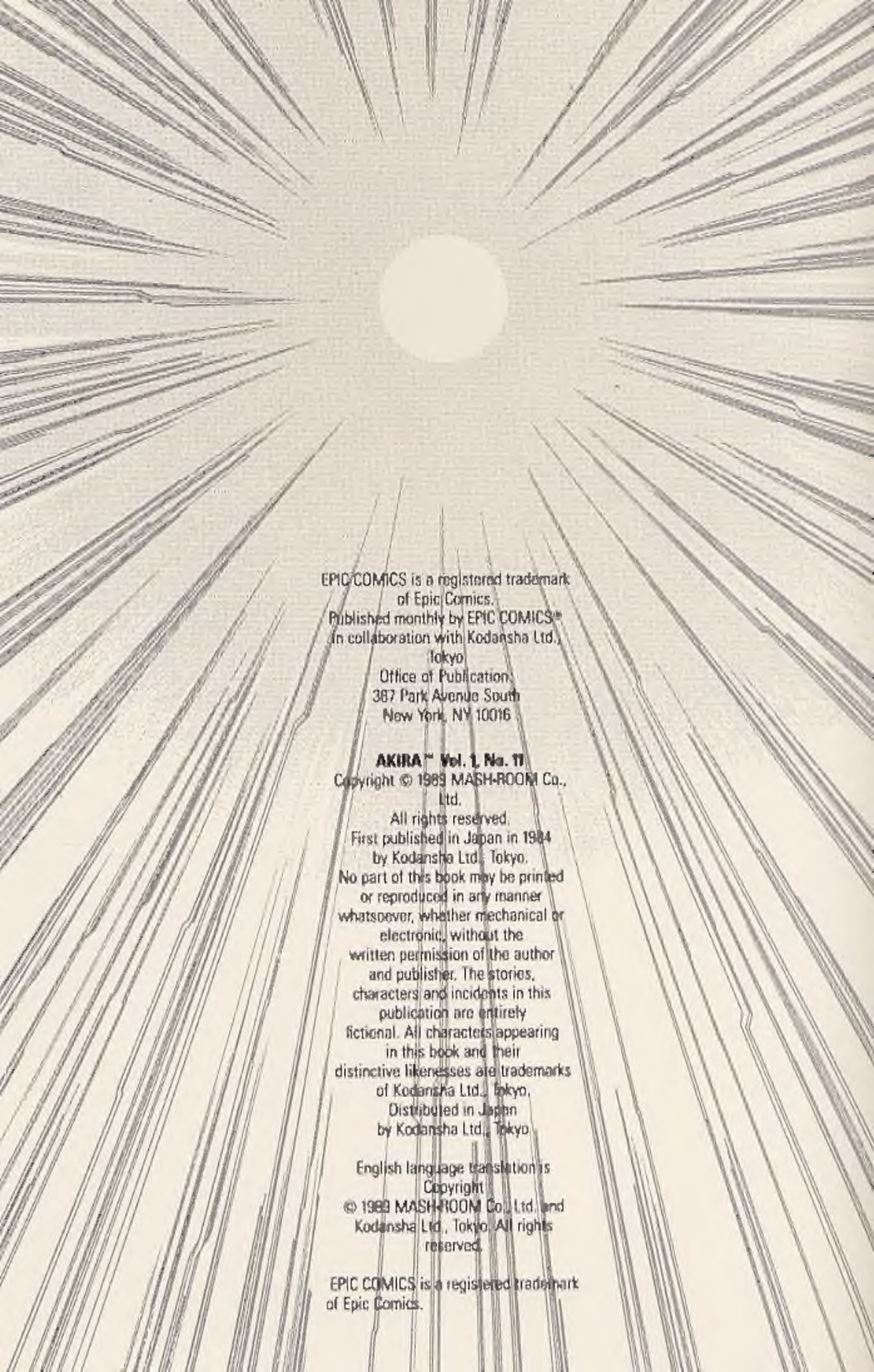

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AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

CHAPTER 11

AKIRA RISING

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

The year is 2030. The world is rebuilding from World War III. In **Neo-Tokyo**, plans are being made to hold the next Olympics in the "old city"—where, thirty-eight years ago, the bombs fell. In the old city, a band of teenaged delinquents led by **Kaneda** encounter **Number 26**—a terrified child with telekinetic abilities. As a result of the encounter, **Kaneda** and his friend **Tetsuo** become entangled in a power struggle between a mysterious organization led by a man known only as the **Colonel** and an underground resistance group, bent on stopping the Colonel's activities.

Among the resistance, **Kaneda** meets **Kay**, her brother, **Ryu** and Ryu's closest subordinate, who finds and nearly kills a spy from the Colonel's organization. They are commanded by **Nezu**—a government official—and a powerful religious leader with precognitive gifts—**Lady Miyako.**

There is a number of children under the Colonel's control, each one possessing a unique psychic talent and identified by a number marked on their hand. Another of the children is **Akira**, so powerful that since the war he has been suspended in cryogenic sleep.

The Colonel's chief medical advisor, called **Doctor**, subjects **Tetsuo** to painful electronic and chemical experiments. This awakens tremendous telepathic potential in the boy, who is dubbed **Number 41**. Unfortunately, a monstrous side of Tetsuo's nature also appears. With the ability to shrug off the most serious injuries, **Tetsuo** goes on a killing spree.

Eventually, he murders one of Kaneda's closest friends, then attacks **Kaneda.** This allows the **Colonel** to capture **Kaneda** and **Kay**.

Tetsuo finds it intolerable that **Akira** may be more powerful, and forces the **Doctor** to tell him where **Akira** is. **Tetsuo** is determined to seek **Akira** out and attacks the **Colonel** when he tries to stop him. The psychic children, like **Lady Miyako**, fear Akira's power. They are worried about the disaster **Tetsuo** may unleash, and use their talents to help **Kay** and **Kaneda** escape. "Aided" by the same spy Ryu's lieutenant left for dead, they pursue **Tetsuo** to the Olympic site, where **Ryu** and his lieutenant are working undercover.

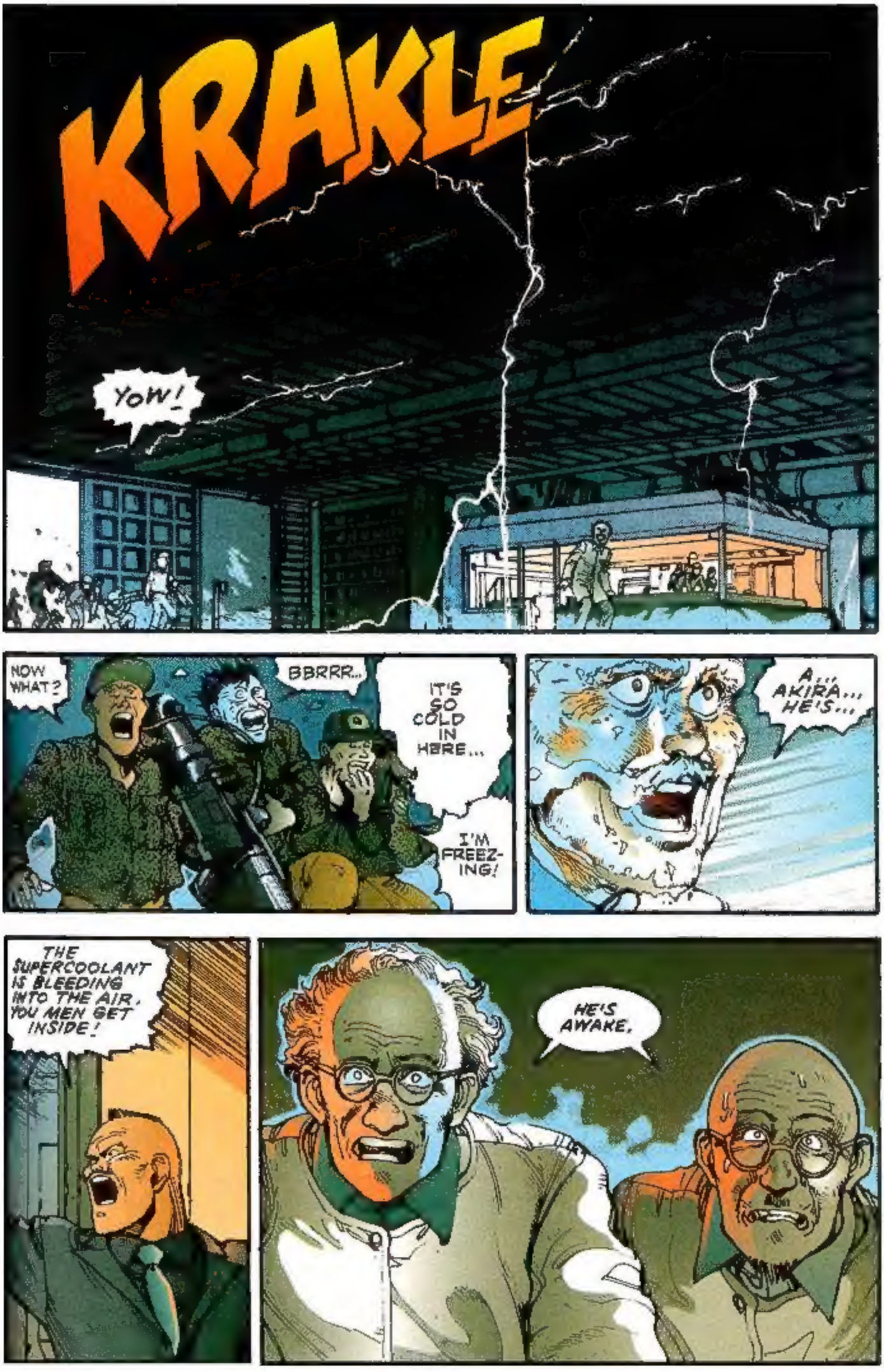
The **Colonel** tries to prevent a disaster by unleashing his troops and scientists. A fight ensues. **Tetsuo** is attacked, but not harmed. Meanwhile, Akira's chamber temperature rises, apparently responding to Tetsuo's psychic energy.

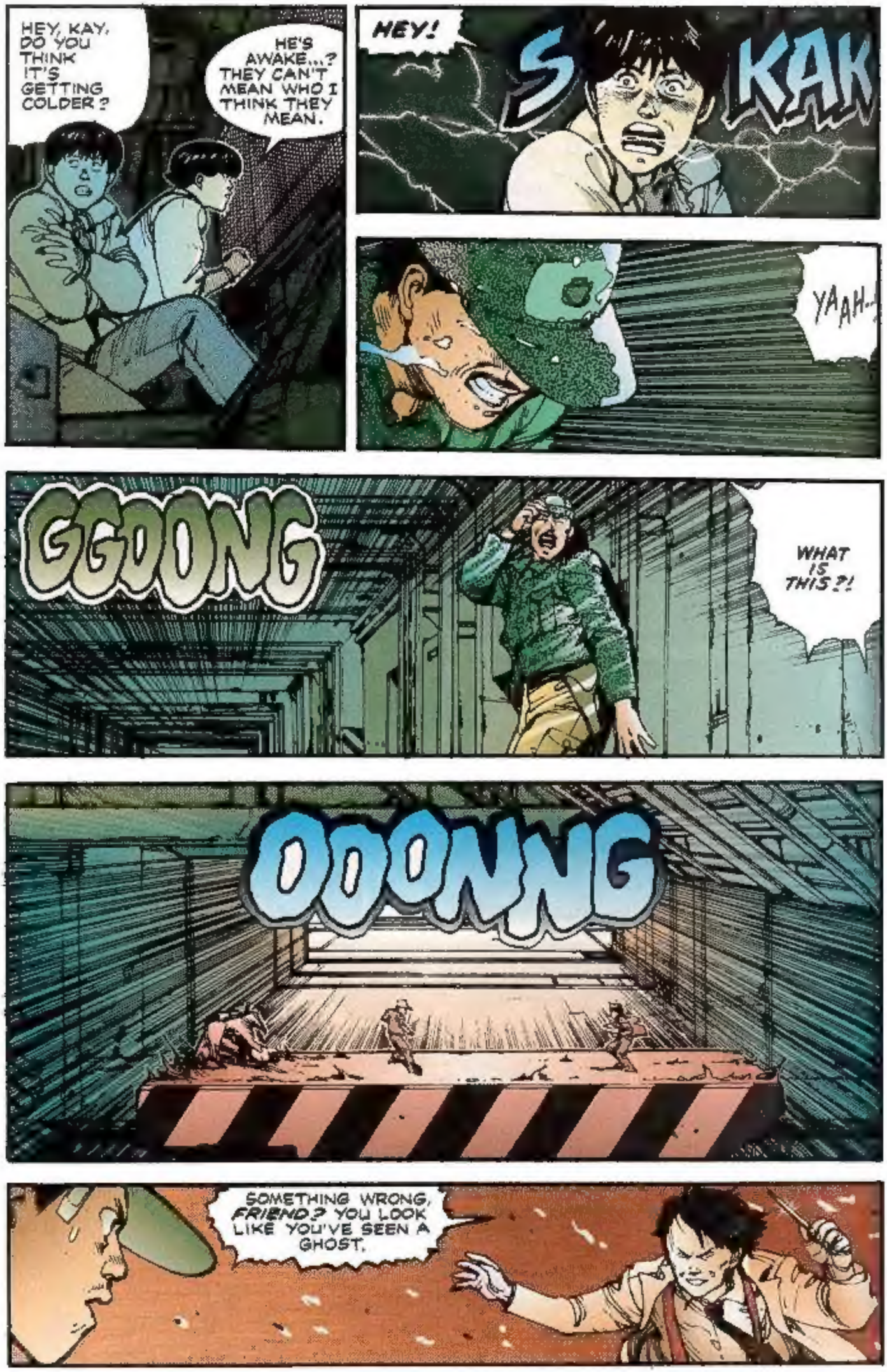
Kaneda, Kay and the spy steal one of the army's flying platforms, but are unable to control it. The result is while trying to reach Akira's chamber, the unlikely trio fly by an elevator platform carrying **Tetsuo, Ryu** and his lieutenant. The trio barely manages to leap off the platform before it crashes. Now grounded, **Kay** forces the spy to go his own way. **Kaneda** and she stumble across Akira's chamber. Meanwhile, the spy corners Ryu's lieutenant on an elevator platform. Suddenly, intense cold from Akira's chamber consumes the site meaning **Akira** is dangerously close to consciousness. The **Colonel** orders his troops to retreat. As **Tetsuo** reaches Akira's resting place, the cryogenic chamber begins to crack from within.

IT CAN'T BE!
THE WALL OF THE INNER CAPSULE IS SHATTERED!
WHAT?!
KRAK
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO FIX IT?!
COLONEL, WE... WE... IT...
!
OH--!
splut

SSSSHHHHH
SSSSHHHHH
C-COLD--!
AAH..A..!

ARE YOU AKIRA?!


KRAKLE
YOW!
NOW WHAT?
BBRRR...
IT'S SO COLD IN HERE...
I'M FREEZ-ING!
A... AKIRA... HE'S...
THE SUPERCOOLANT IS BLEEDING INTO THE AIR. YOU MEN GET INSIDE!
HE'S AWAKE.

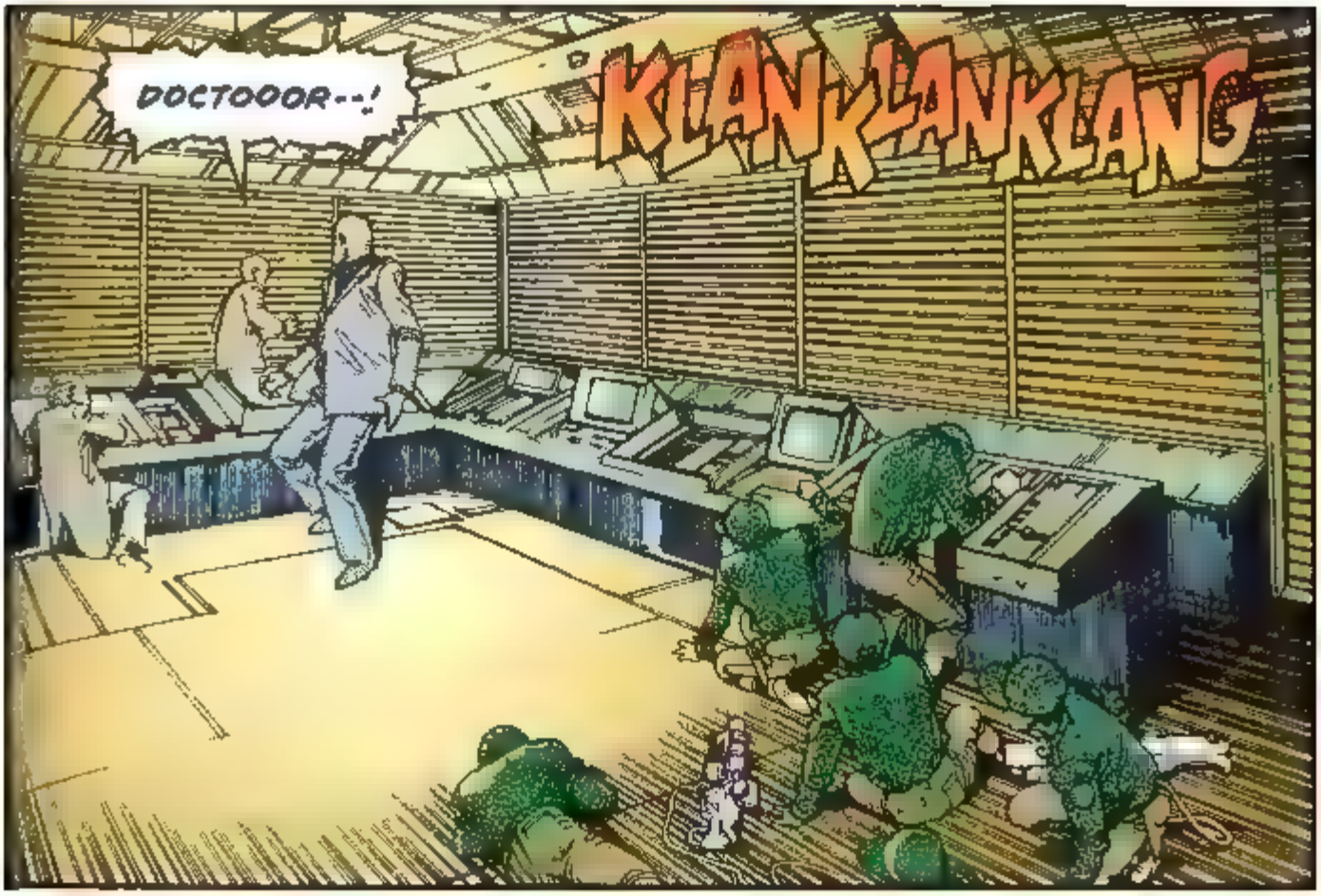

HEY, KAY, DO YOU THINK IT'S GETTING COLDER?
HE'S AWAKE...? THEY CAN'T MEAN WHO I THINK THEY MEAN.
HEY!
S
KAK
YAAH..
GGOONG
WHAT IS THIS?!
OOONNG
SOMETHING WRONG, FRIEND? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE SEEN A GHOST.

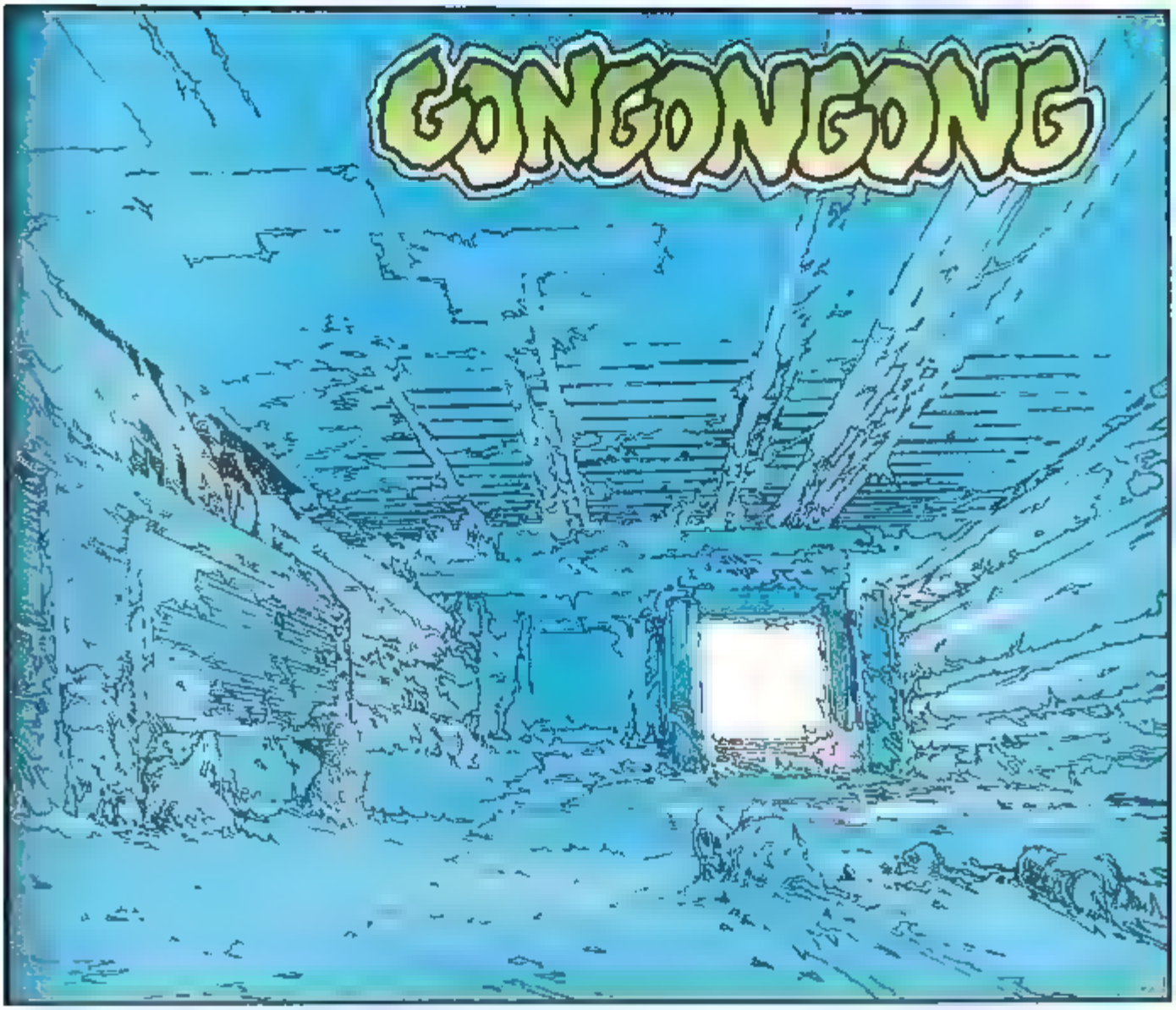
LOWER THE SHIELDS BEFORE WE ALL FREEZE TO DEATH!
BUT, COLONEL, THE DOCTOR IS STILL OUTSIDE!
WHAT--?!
SSHUUK
AAIEE!

DON'T PANIC!
THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS ARE SIMPLY REACTING TO THE CHARGE OF SUPERCOOLED AIR!
EEK!
ZZLOT
!
PLOK
CODE SEVEN EMERGENCY ALARM--!
HALT! GET AWAY FROM THERE!
OH.
RRAK
FWOOM

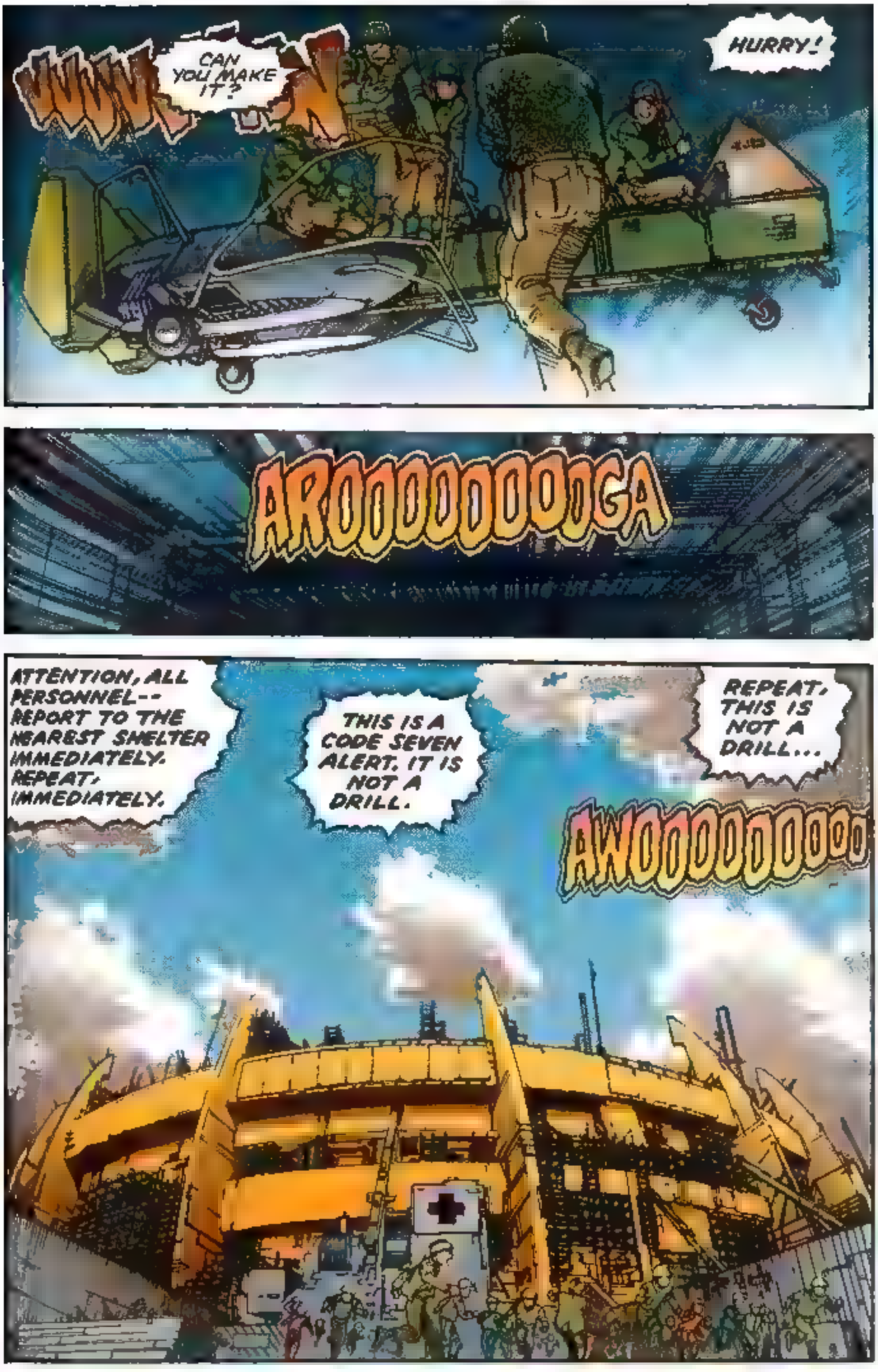
YOU IMBE-CILE!
SLAM
OUCH!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO PANIC! THIS MAY NOT EVEN BE AKIRA!
IT IS!
GONGONGONG
DOCTOR...

SHOOOOO

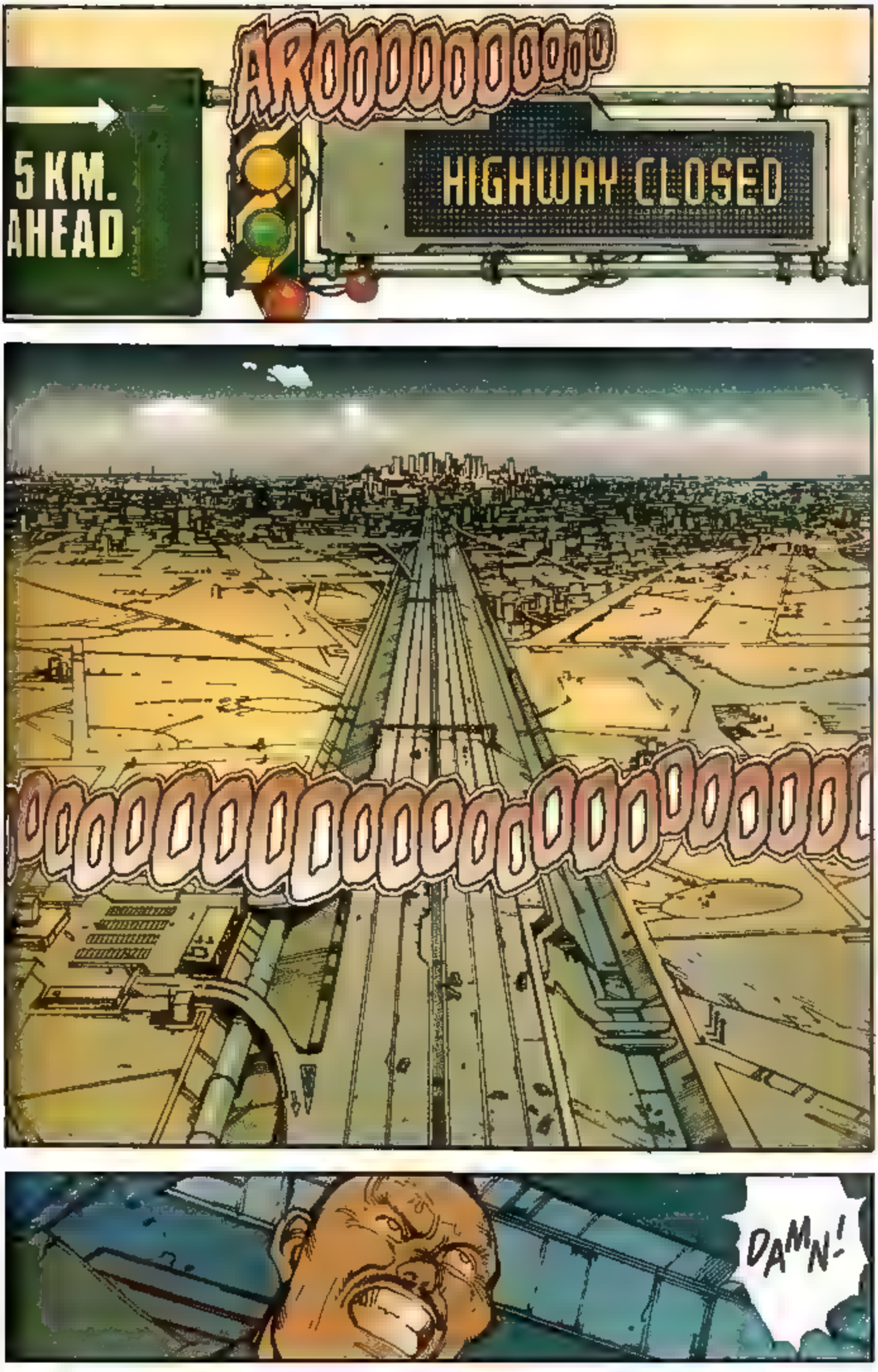

DOCTOOOR--!
KLANKLANKLANG


GONGONGONG

COLONEL!
GONGONGONG
IT'S TOO LATE! RETREAT!
THE BULK-HEAD DOOR'S CLOSING!
AWOO
HURRY!
JOOO
COLD'S JAMMED THE CONTROLS --!
OONNG
FWOOM
WRIGHT!
...UUH...
WHO'S THAT?
LOOKS LIKE ONE OF OUR MEN!
VVVNNN
HUF!


CAN YOU MAKE IT?
HURRY!
AROOOOOOOOGA
ATTENTION, ALL PERSONNEL-- REPORT TO THE NEAREST SHELTER IMMEDIATELY. REPEAT: IMMEDIATELY.
THIS IS A CODE SEVEN ALERT. IT IS NOT A DRILL.
REPEAT, THIS IS NOT A DRILL...
AWOOOOOOOOO

AROOOOOOOOOO
WOK
YOU HEAR THAT ? A CODE SEVEN ALERT--IT MEANS THAT WHATEVER'S UP, THE BRASS RANKS IT AS WORSE THAN A NUCLEAR ATTACK
GONG
WE'RE MOVING!
BUT I THINK FOR THE MOMENT WE'RE SAFE ENOUGH TO SETTLE WHAT'S BETWEEN US.
GONG


5 KM.
AHEAD
ARRRRRRRRRRR
HIGHWAY CLOSED
DAMN!

ATTENTION ALL CITIZENS! THIS IS A CODE SEVEN ALERT. A STATE OF DIRE EMERGENCY EXISTS.

ALL PUBLIC INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CHANNELS ARE NOW UNDER GOVERNMENT CONTROL.

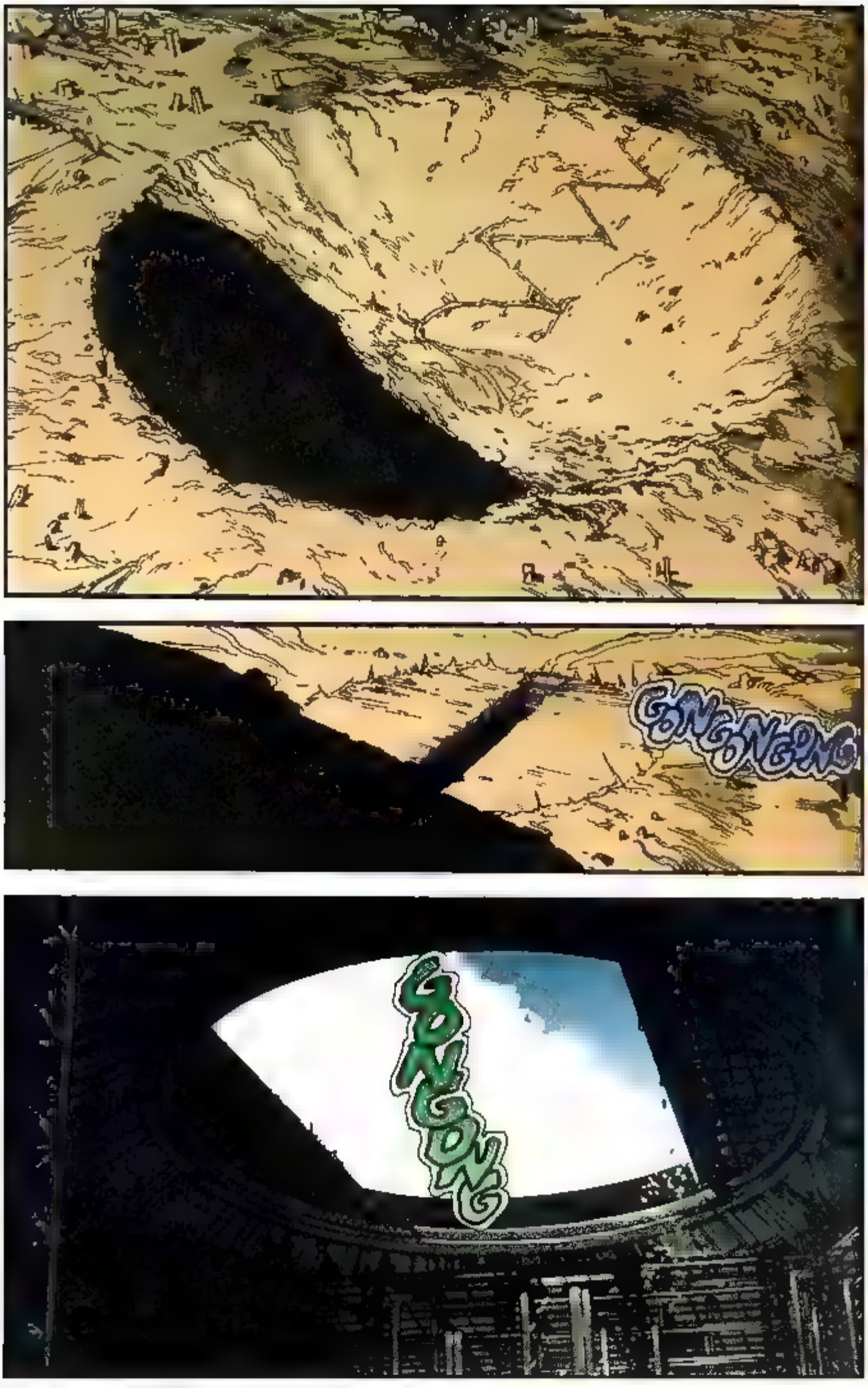
ALL TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES ARE CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. COMPLETE OBEDIENCE IS REQUIRED.

KRASH

REPORT AT ONCE TO THE NEAREST EMERGENCY SHELTER. THERE ARE TEN MINUTES REMAINING UNTIL SHELTER DOORS ARE AUTOMATICALLY CLOSED!

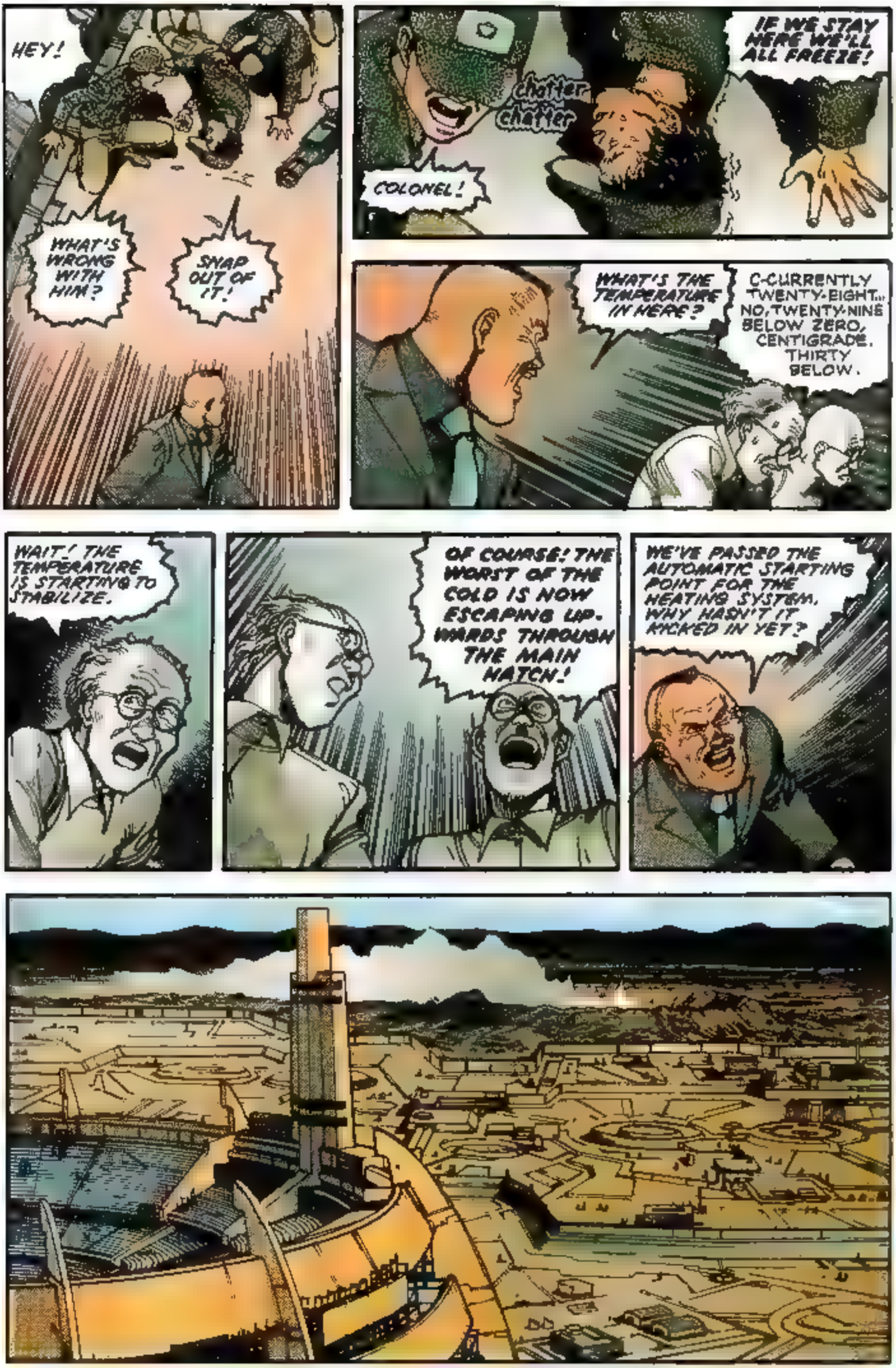
WHERE'S MR. NEZU?
TOKKA
TOKKA
TOKKA
TOKKA
GET LADY MIYAKO TO ONE OF THE UNDERGROUND SHELTERS!
...SO...
NO ONE COULD STAND IN THE WAY OF WHAT WAS DESTINED TO BE...
THEN... AKIRA HAS ALREADY --?!
WE MAY STAY HERE AWHILE... BEFORE DISASTER REACHES ITS HAND TOWARD US...
MR. NEZU... LADY MIYAKO. WE MUST LEAVE HERE!
SILENCE, FOOL!

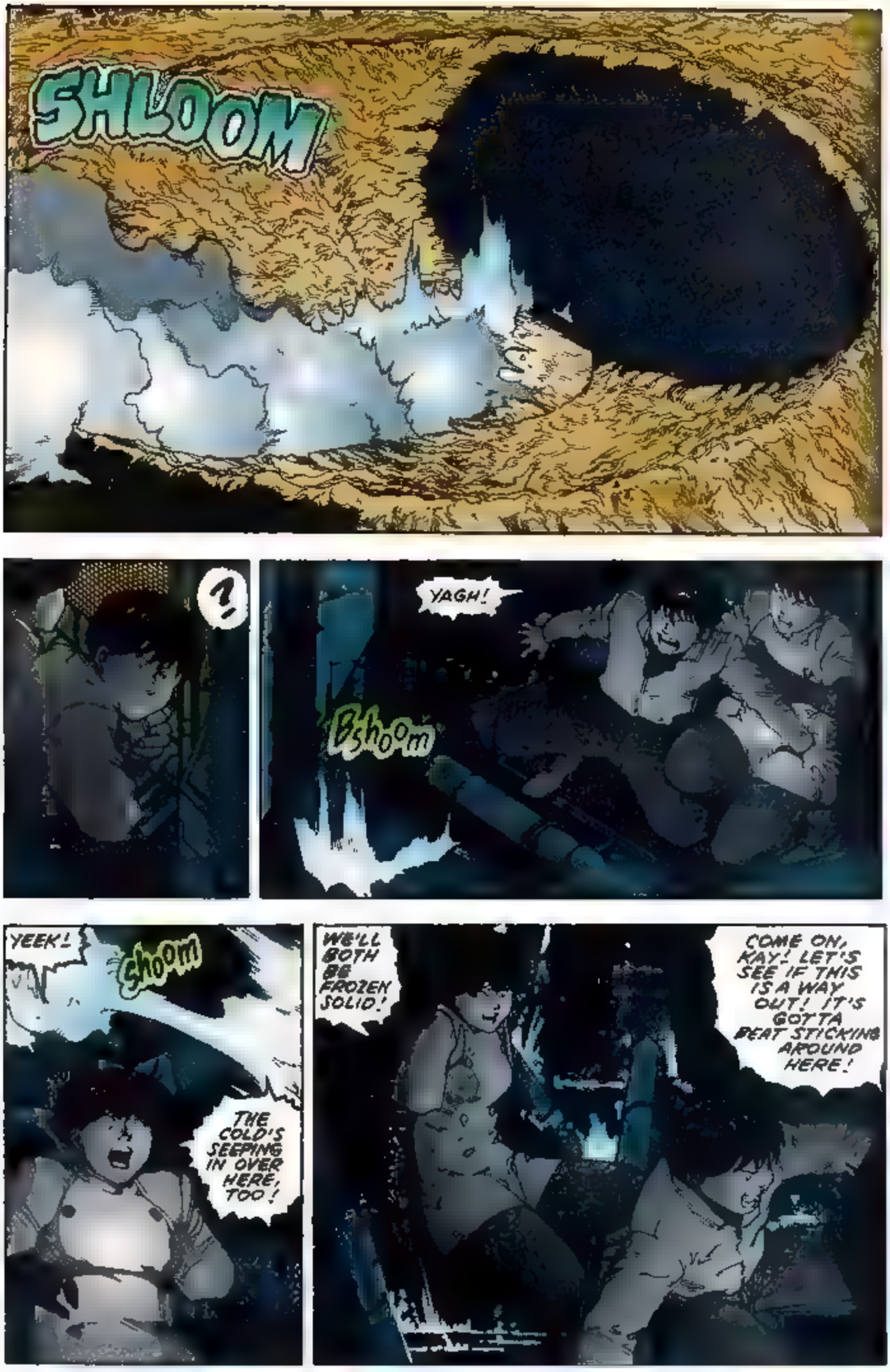
OuR... AK RA
HEYY
MOOOMEEE
HEE-GELP
OPEN THE DOO-GOR!


GONGONGONG
GONGONG

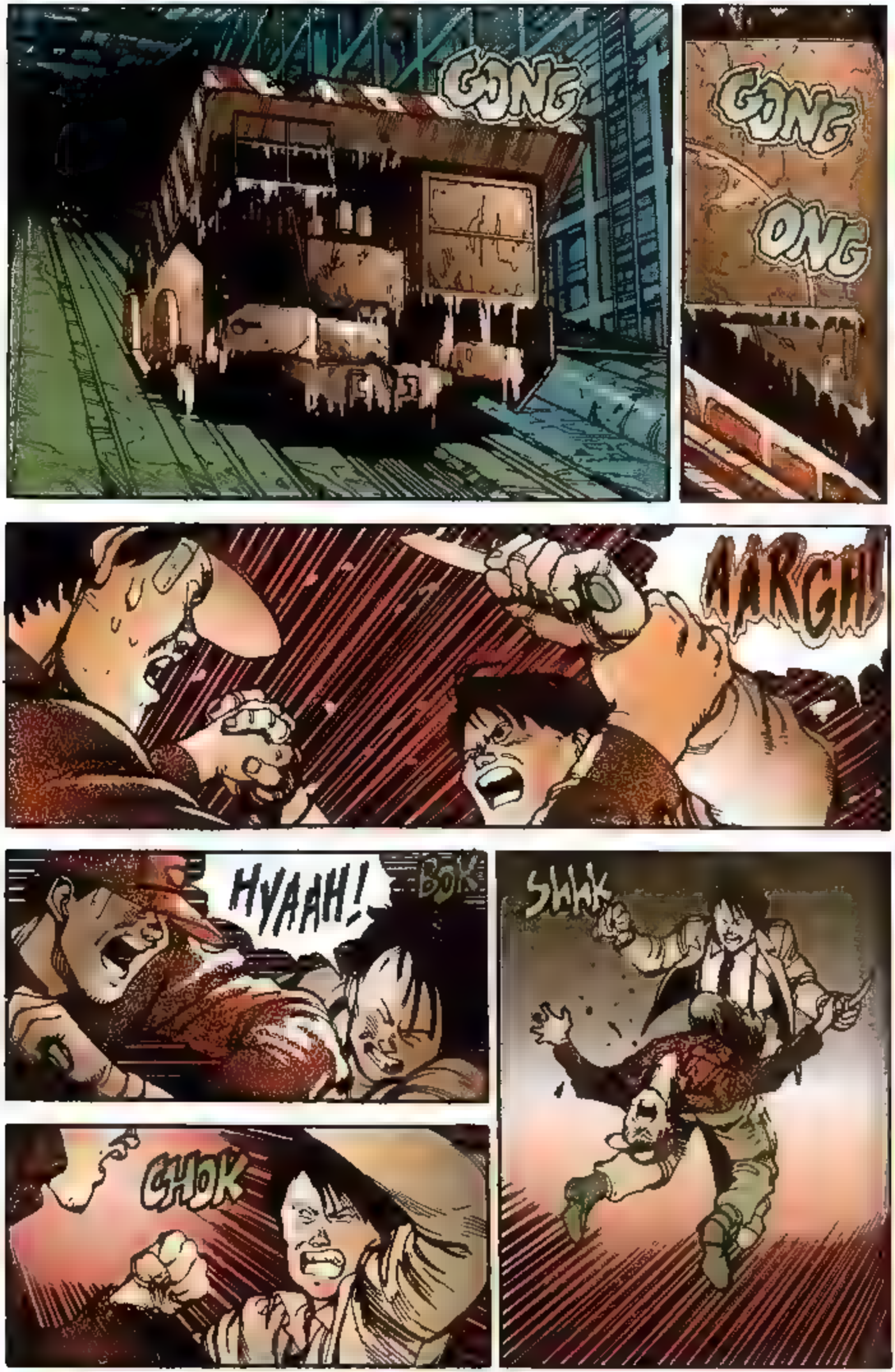
GONG
ONG
ONG
COLONEL-- LOOK!
THE MAIN HATCH IS OPENING!
IMPOSSIBLE! NO ONE'S BEEN NEAR THOSE CONTROLS.
I... I'M SORRY, SIR. PERHAPS THE ELECTRICAL DISCHARGE CAUSED BY THE EXTREME COLD HAS SHORTED OUT THE CONTROLS.
GRR.
BASHOOM
NOW WHAT.?!

GOOONG
I NEVER EXPECTED TO FIND A DIRECT EXIT WAY DOWN HERE
DON'T JUST STAND THERE, LET'S USE IT...
...BEFORE WE FREEZE OUR ASSES OFF.
SHHHMMM


HEY!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
SNAP OUT OF IT!
chatter chatter
COLONEL!
IF WE STAY HERE WE'LL ALL FREEZE!
WHAT'S THE TEMPERATURE IN HERE?
C-CURRENTLY TWENTY-EIGHT... NO, TWENTY-NINE BELOW ZERO, CENTIGRADE. THIRTY BELOW.
WAIT! THE TEMPERATURE IS STARTING TO STABILIZE.
OF COURSE! THE WORST OF THE COLD IS NOW ESCAPING UP-WARDS THROUGH THE MAIN HATCH!
WE'VE PASSED THE AUTOMATIC STARTING POINT FOR THE HEATING SYSTEM. WHY HASN'T IT KICKED IN YET?


SHLOOM
?
YAGH!
Bshoom
YEEK!
shoom
THE COLD'S SEEPING IN OVER HERE, TOO!
WE'LL BOTH BE FROZEN SOLID!
COME ON, KAY! LET'S SEE IF THIS IS A WAY OUT! IT'S GOTTA BEAT STICKING AROUND HERE!

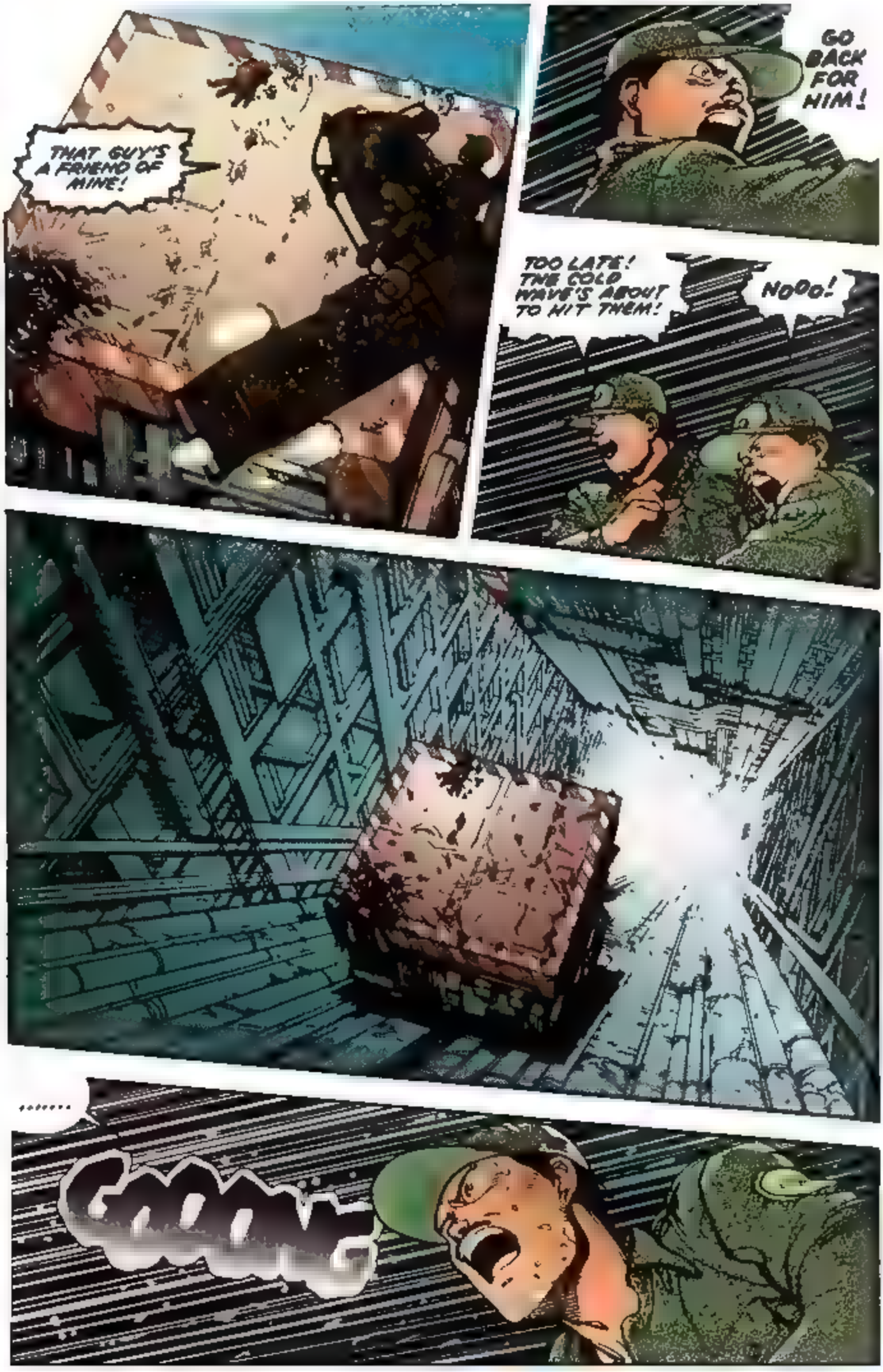
IT'S CLOSING--!
GONG
ONG
ONG
NOOO!
GONG
ONG
UNAAGH!
VVVNNN
WE'VE LOST THE RIGHT ENGINE!
DON'T QUIT ON US NOW, BABY!
HOLD HER STEADY!
SHIT!
GONG
ONG
VVVVVNNN


GONG
GONG
ONG
AARGH!
HYAAH!
BOK
SWWK
CHOK

THUD
AAIEE!
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK, FRIEND. AND I CAN PAY BACK WHAT YOU DID TO ME.
AAUGH...
!
THERE'S SOMEONE ON THE ELEVATOR!
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE STILL ALIVE!
ONE OF THEM'S GOT A KNIFE!

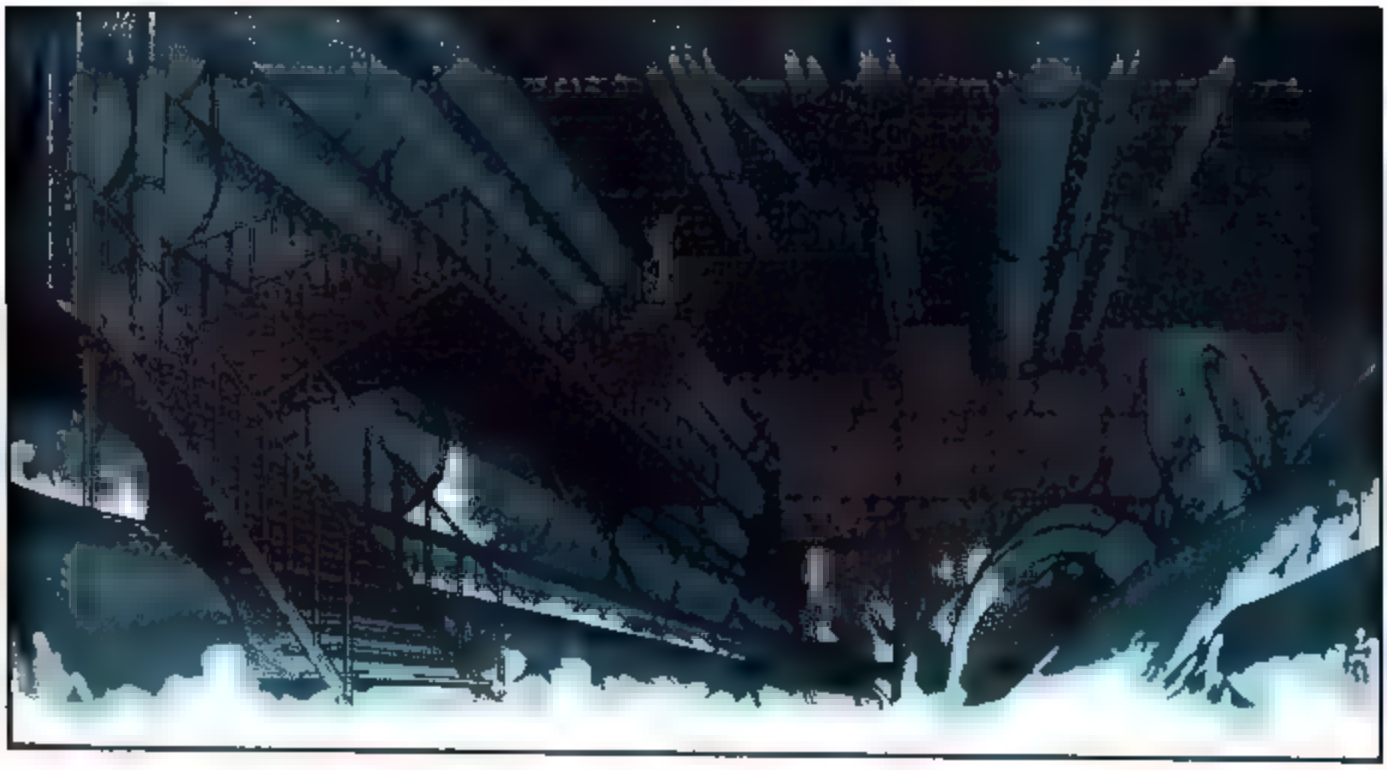
HE CUT UP ONE OF OUR MEN!
W-WAIT!
THIS ISN'T HOW IT LOOKS--!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
CAN YOU MAKE IT UP HERE?
STEADY!
HURRY! WE'RE ALMOST OUT OF POWER. IF THE ENGINE GOES, WE'RE STUCK HERE!

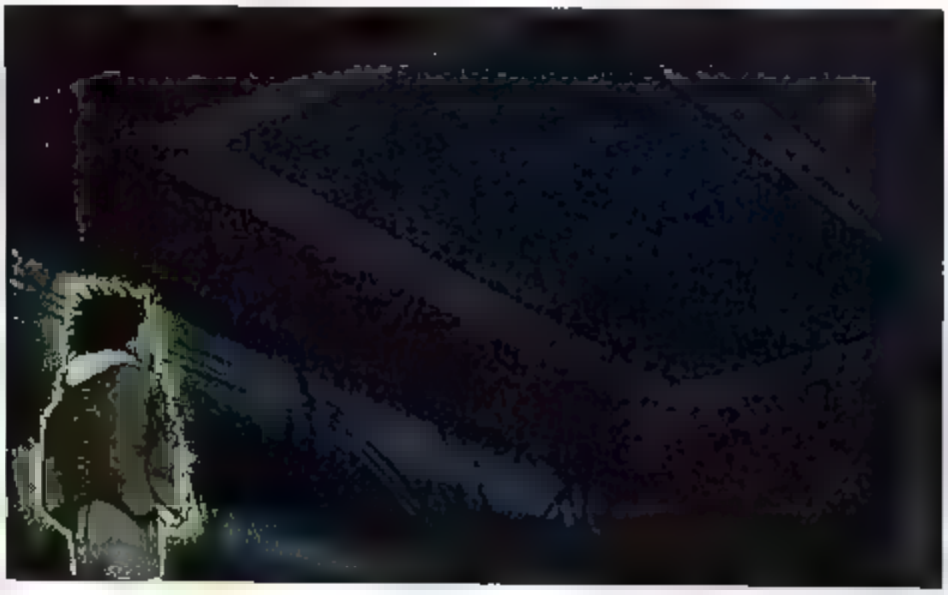
HEY!
BEHIND YOU!
!
YAGHK!
WE HAVEN'T GOT TIME FOR THIS!
YOU CAN FIGHT IT OUT IN HELL!
THOM
THOM
W-WAIT!
AUGH!

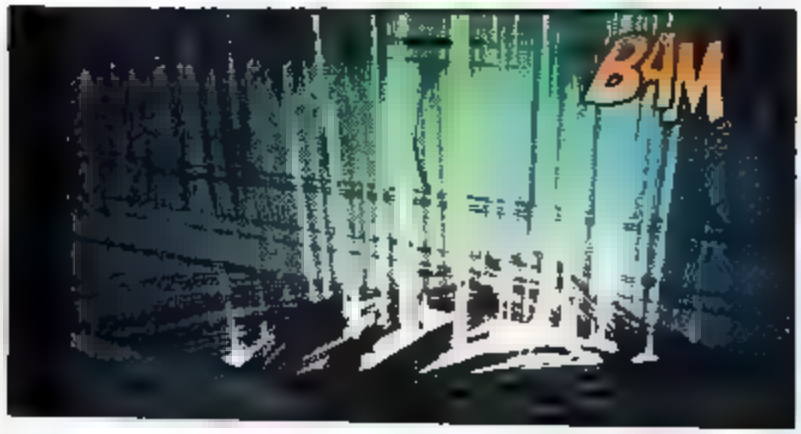

THAT GUY'S A FRIEND OF MINE!
GO BACK FOR HIM!
TOO LATE! THE COLD WAVE'S ABOUT TO HIT THEM!
NOOO!
.....
CRUNCH

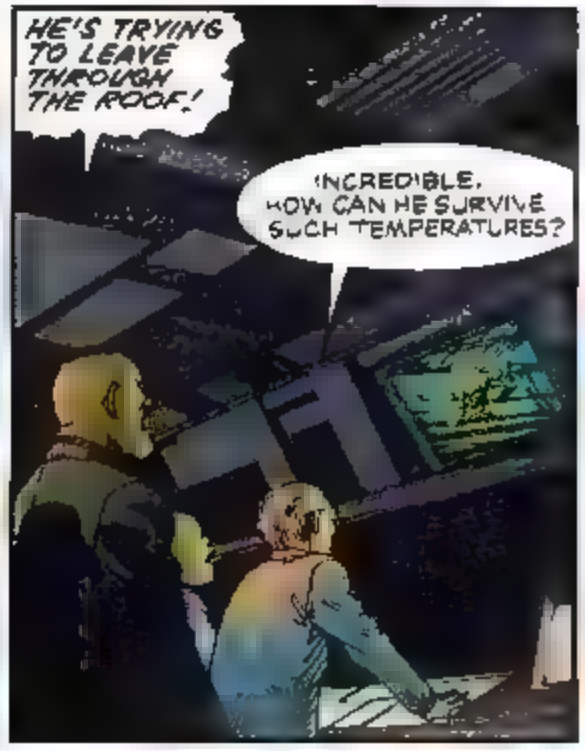
DAMN !
DO YOU REALLY THINK WE CAN GET OUT THIS WAY?
T S A TOTAL MAZE..
WE HAVE TO TRY. ANYTHING'S BETTER THAN S'TT NG HERE AND FREEZING.
YO!
THINK IT'S A PASSAGE?
LOOKS MORE LIKE SOME K ND OF DUCT.
LET S GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE IT BECOMES A COOLING DUCT
YAH!
KRAKLE

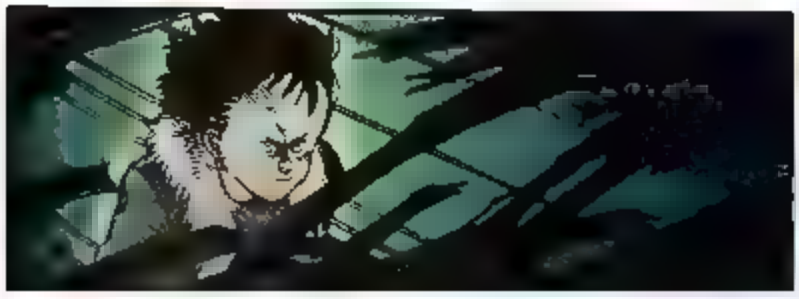
KRAKLE
WHAAT?!
VOOON
THE POWER'S BACK ON!
AND THE HEATING SYSTEM HAS FINALLY KICKED IN!
NOW! CHECK THE MONITORS! I WANT A REPORT ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF NUMBER 41!
CHECK THE ENTIRE AREA! I WANT TO SEE EACH CAMERA IN TURN UP ON THE SCREEN!
VOOON
WHAT IS THAT?!
I DON'T KNOW EITHER, SO LET'S HURRY!






BAM


HE'S TRYING TO LEAVE THROUGH THE ROOF!
INCREDIBLE. HOW CAN HE SURVIVE SUCH TEMPERATURES?



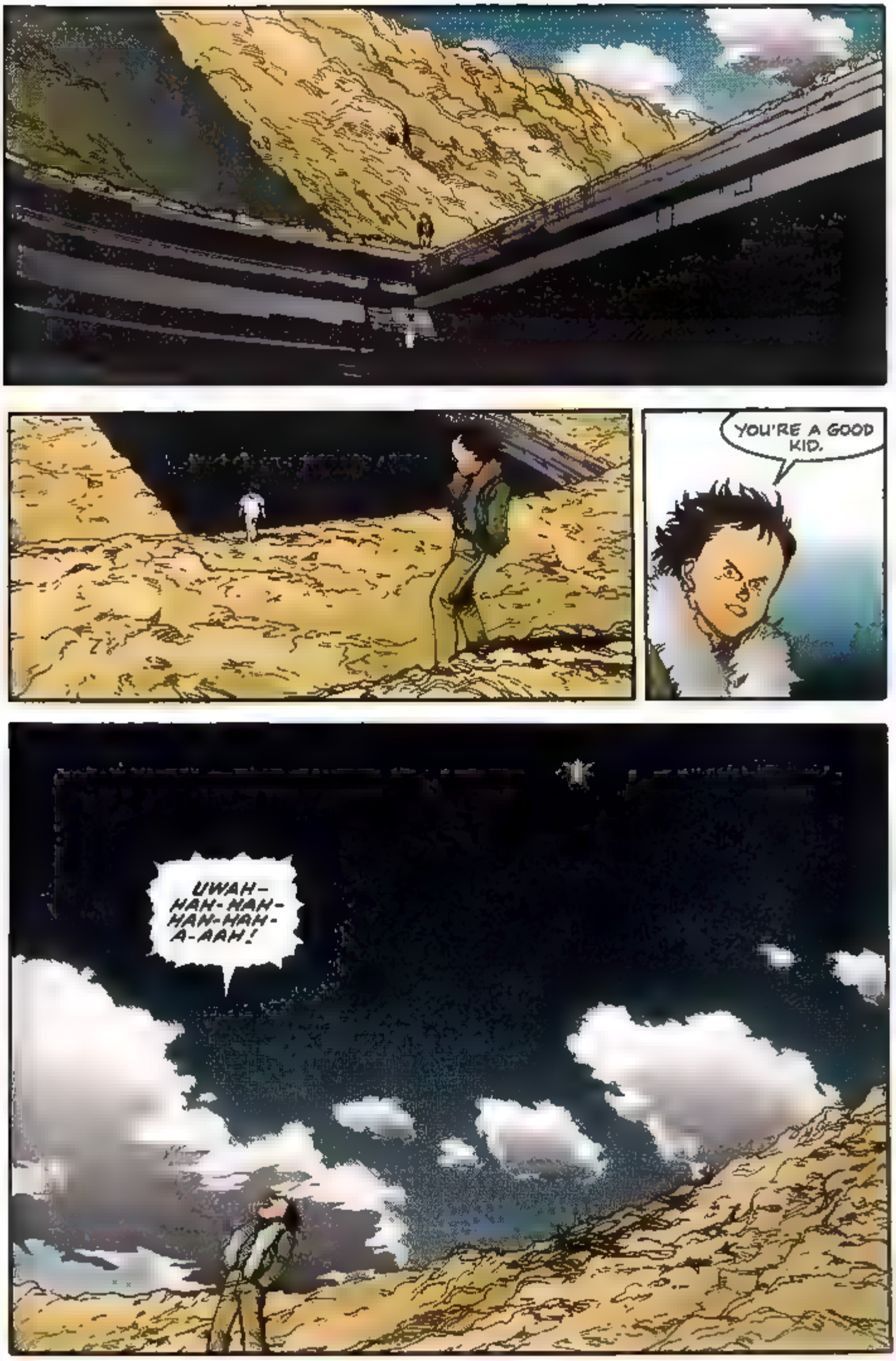
!
WHO'S THAT?!
ZOOM IN WITH THE CAMERA! I WANT TO SEE WHO'S WITH HIM!
IT'S A CHILD!
BUT, WHERE COULD...?
WE'VE MAGNIFIED THE IMAGE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, SIR.
A...KIR...A...
THE FOOL HAS AWAKENED AKIRA!

IS--?
IS THAT AKIRA?!
OH, NO!!
BAM
AND THE TROUBLE HAS ONLY BEGUN! WAIT UNTIL AKIRA USES HIS POWERS!
SUMMON LABO AT ONCE! WE'RE GOING TO NEED LABO'S SUPPORT!
I DON'T CARE! WE'RE GOING TO NEED MISSILES... FIGHTER PLANES! CALL FOR EVERY WEAPON AVAILABLE!
THAM
BUT COLONEL... WE'RE UNDER A CODE SEVEN EMERGENCY ALERT.

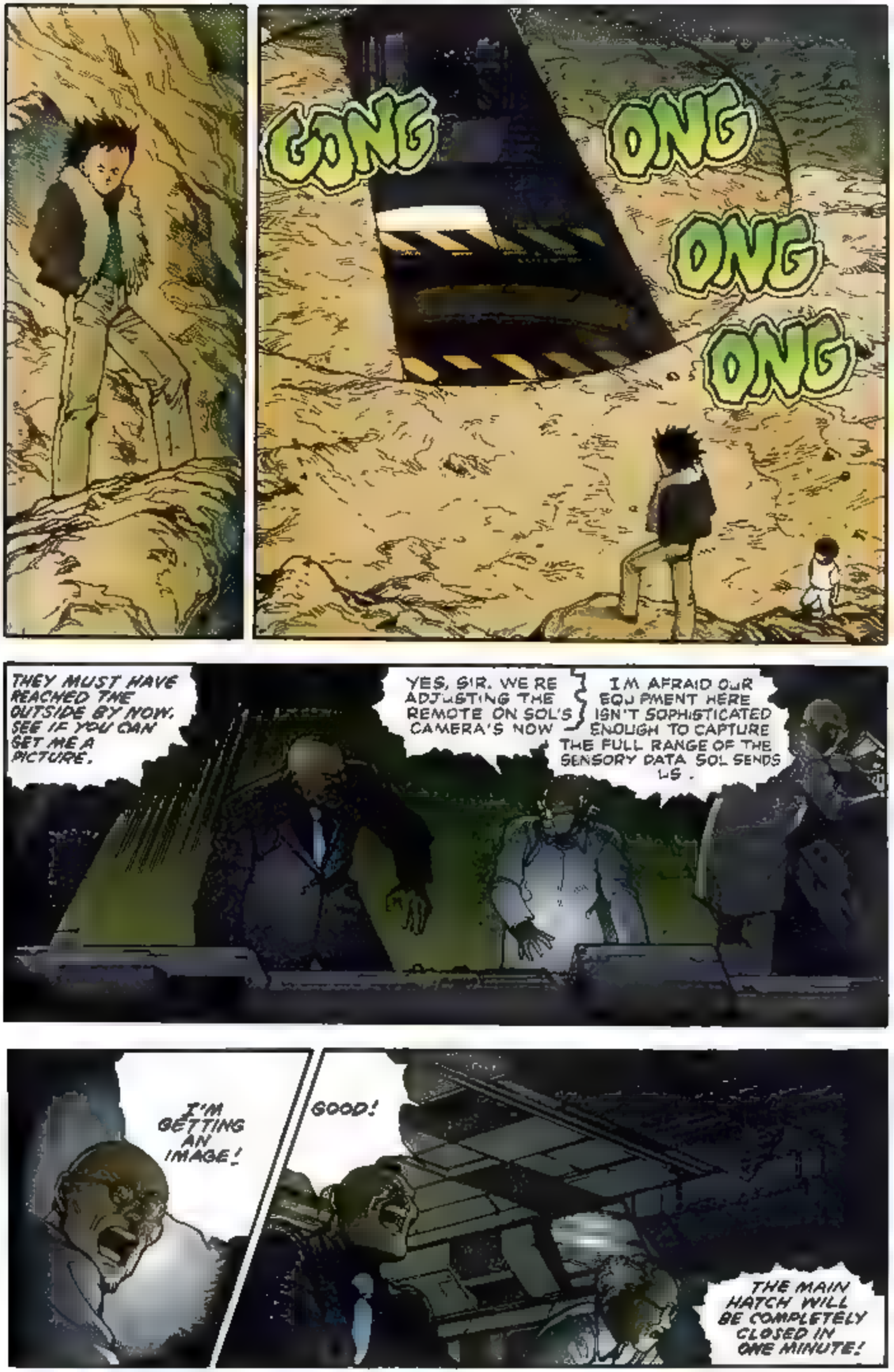
HUNH?
I WONDER WHERE WE ARE.
WHICH WAY SHOULD WE GO?
UP.
TAK

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?
OH, I GET IT. IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE YOU'VE SEEN THE SUN
I'VE GOT IT!
EEP!
WE'LL USE A DEFENSE SATELLITE. GET ME SOL!
B-BUT COLONEL...

CAN SOL BE CONTROLLED FROM HERE?
-IT S POSSIBLE
BUT ONLY IF THE CONTROL CENTER PATCHES US THROUGH!
THEY MUST! WE MUST DESTROY OUR PROBLEM-- KILL THEM BOTH --WHILE A CHANCE STILL EXISTS!
!
TAKE A LOOK!
AT WHAT?
OH!
SUNLIGHT!


YOU'RE A GOOD KID.
UWAH-HAH-HAH-HAH-HAH-A-AAH!

KONG
:PUFF:
KONG
KONG
:PUFF:
TWO FLIGHTS TO GO..
HMM?
NOW WHAT?
GONG ONG
IT'S MOVING!
COME ON!
WE HAVE TO GET THROUGH IT BEFORE IT CLOSES!


GONG
ONG
ONG
ONG
THEY MUST HAVE REACHED THE OUTSIDE BY NOW. SEE IF YOU CAN GET ME A PICTURE.
YES, SIR. WE'RE ADJUSTING THE REMOTE ON SOL'S CAMERA'S NOW
I'M AFRAID OUR EQUIPMENT HERE ISN'T SOPHISTICATED ENOUGH TO CAPTURE THE FULL RANGE OF THE SENSORY DATA SOL SENDS US.
I'M GETTING AN IMAGE!
GOOD!
THE MAIN HATCH WILL BE COMPLETELY CLOSED IN ONE MINUTE!

GONGONGONG
DAMN!
TAK TAK TAK
TAK TAK TAK TAK
TAK TA
PUFF
PUFF
COME ON!
HURRY!
PUFF
PUFF
PUFF
PUFF

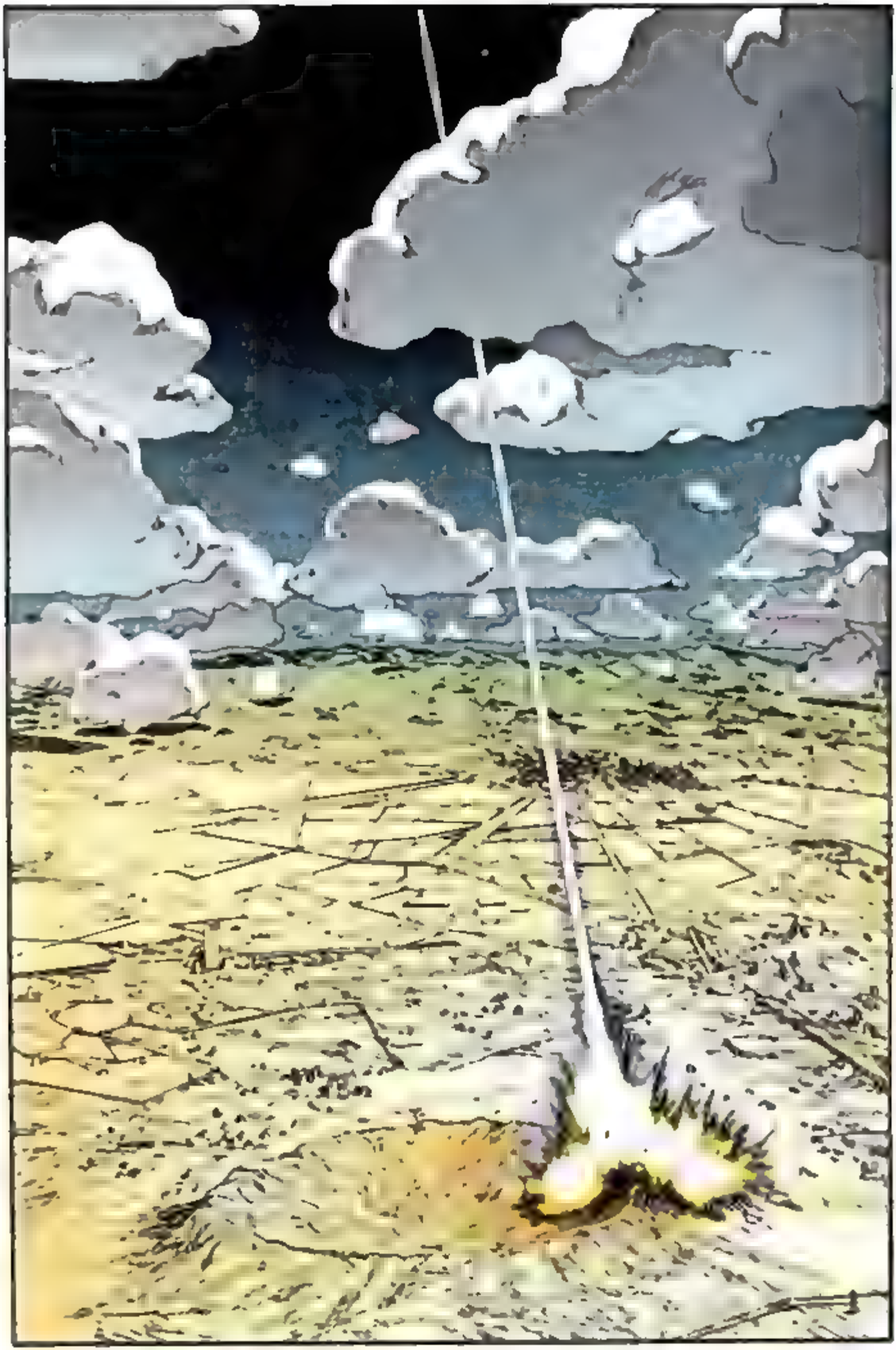
WAAIT!
DAMN THESE DOORS!
GONG
ONG
!
ONG
YEEK!
GGHN
THOK
MOVE IT!
OH!
GONG
KERRUNK
SHERUNK
GONG
YAGH!

SIGH
I'M SO SAD.
FOOF
IT'S OKAY BOY
LEAST I COULD DO. HATE TO SEE YOU END UP AS LUNCH MEAT.
SQUEEZE
..UM.
SWOOSH
YIPE!
H-HEY NOW JUS— WAIT
WHOOK
OWW!
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?
I DO APPRECIATE YOUR HELP SO MUCH

HUNH ?
DO YOU KNOW WHERE WE ARE?
THIS IS THE HEART OF THE DEVASTATION-- THE PLACE WHERE THE BOMB FELL ON TOKYO!
NO KIDDING
THE RESISTANCE KNOWS OF A TOP-SECRET BASE ,
... LOCATED AT THE VERY CENTER OF THE CRATER
DO YOU REALIZE WHAT THIS COULD MEAN?
MM?
IT COULDN'T BE
LOOK AT THAT!

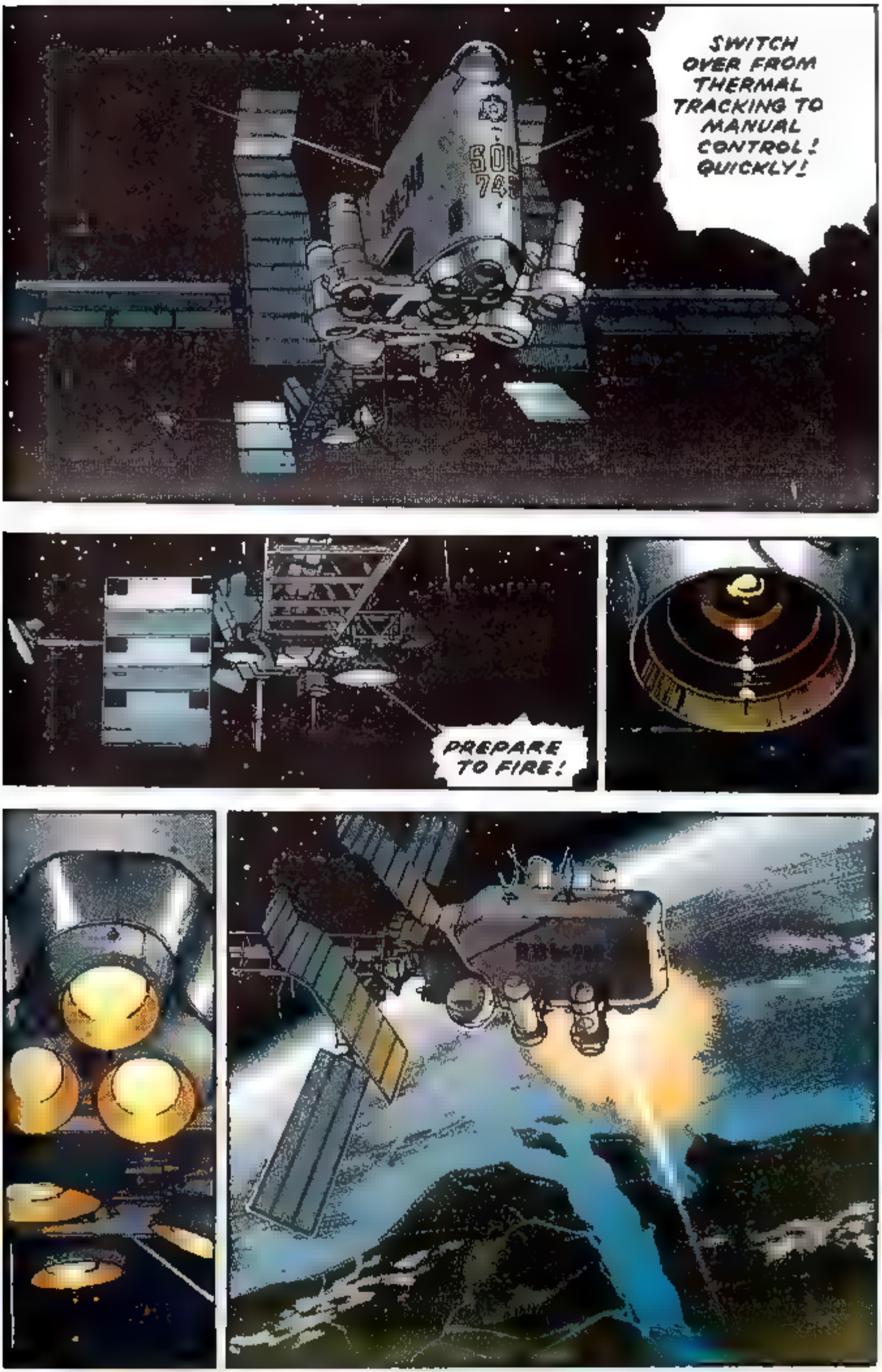
IT'S TETSUO!
HOW'D THAT BASTARD GET OUT HERE?!
AH.
WAIT!
THERE'S SOMEONE WITH HIM.
!
IT... CAN'T BE..
WHO'S THAT KID?!

HUNH?!
NO, I'M NOT!
MAYBE I'M IMAGINING THINGS
WHAT IS THAT?!



VOOM

YOU MISSED THEM!
I'M SORRY, SIR AT THIS RANGE, OUR ACCURACY IS LIMITED!
GGRRR..
TAKE AIM AGAIN!


SWITCH OVER FROM THERMAL TRACKING TO MANUAL CONTROL! QUICKLY!
PREPARE TO FIRE!

VOOM

AA-AAH!

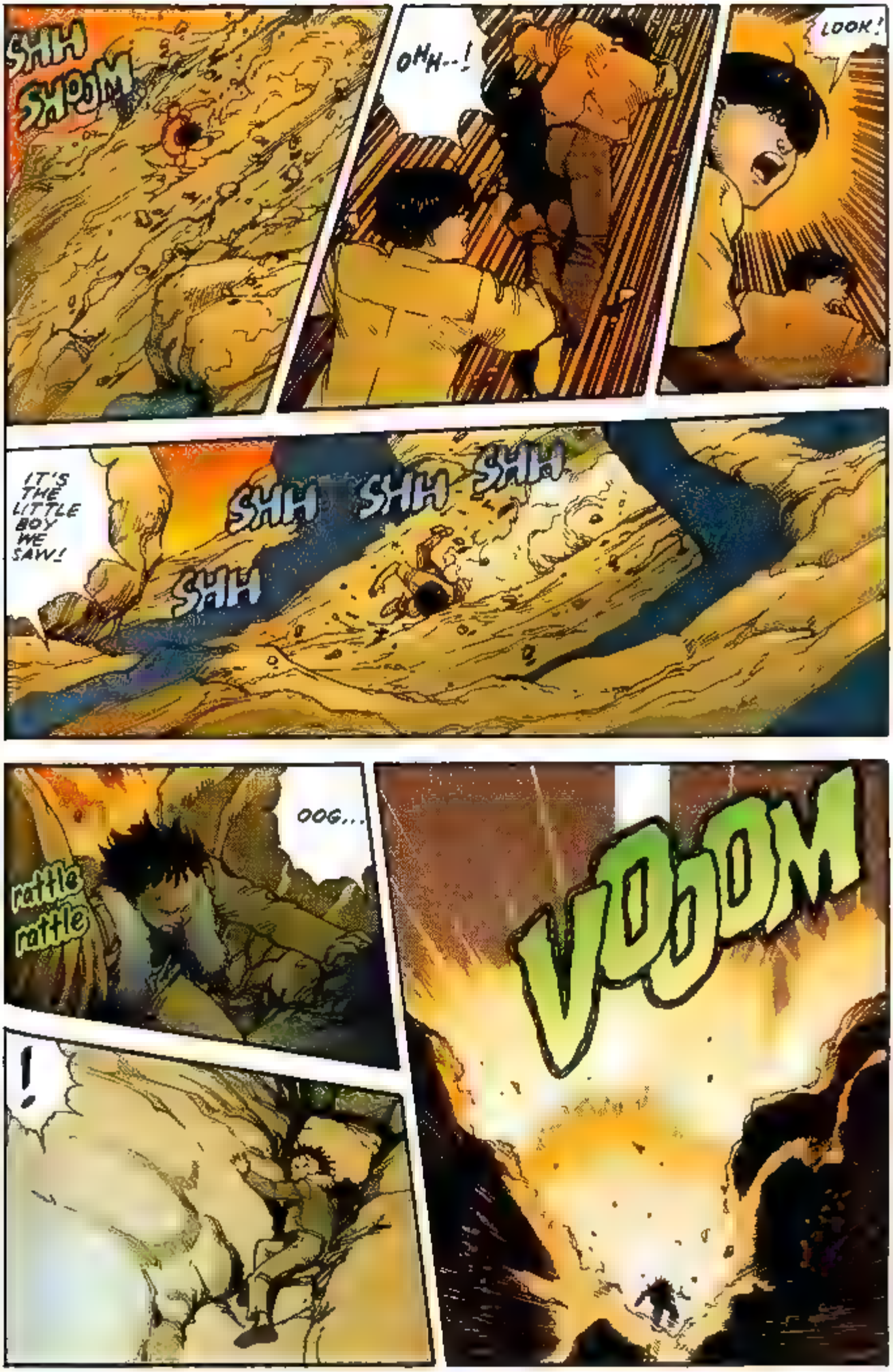
AKIRAAA!

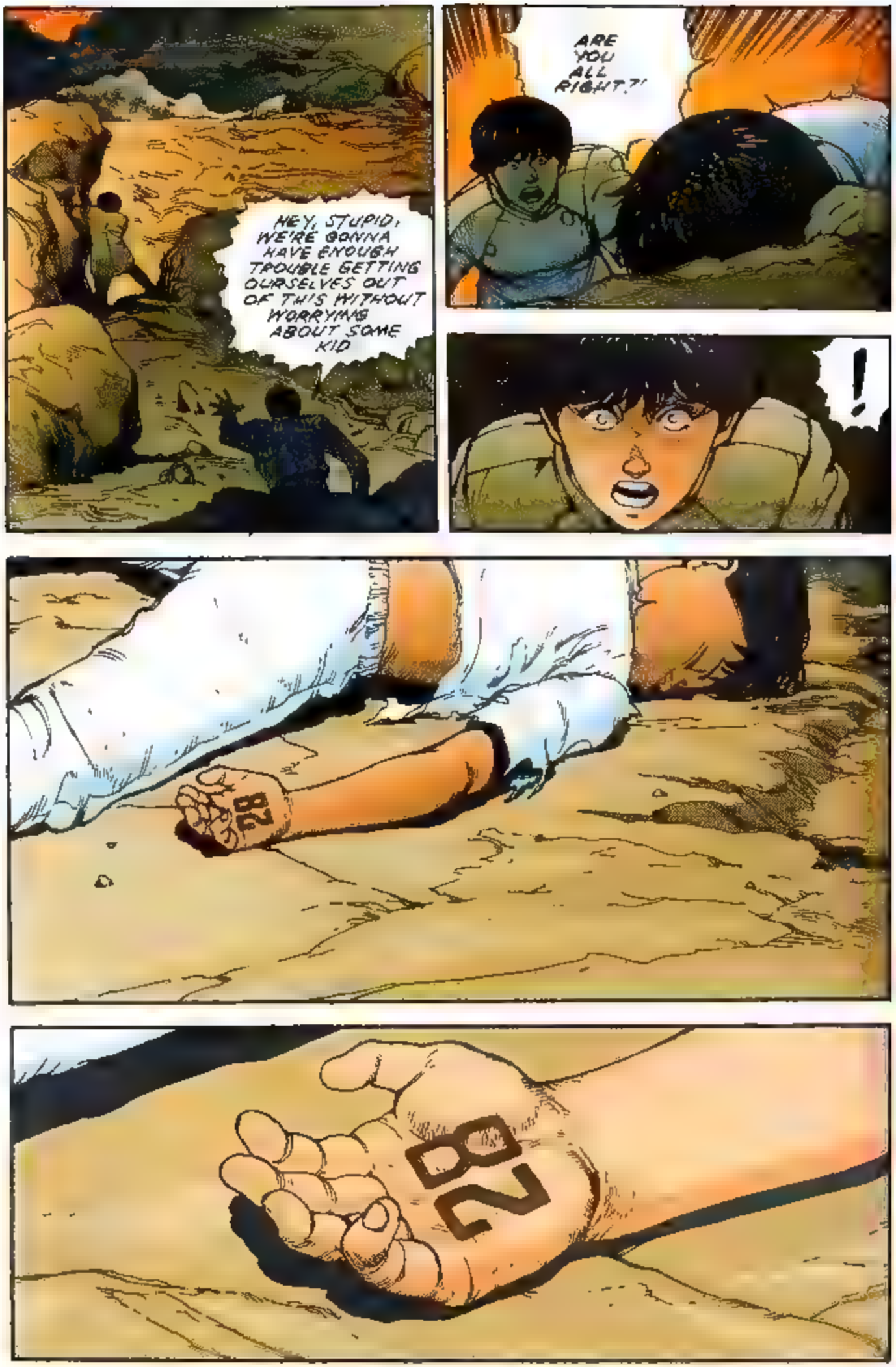
EEEEK!

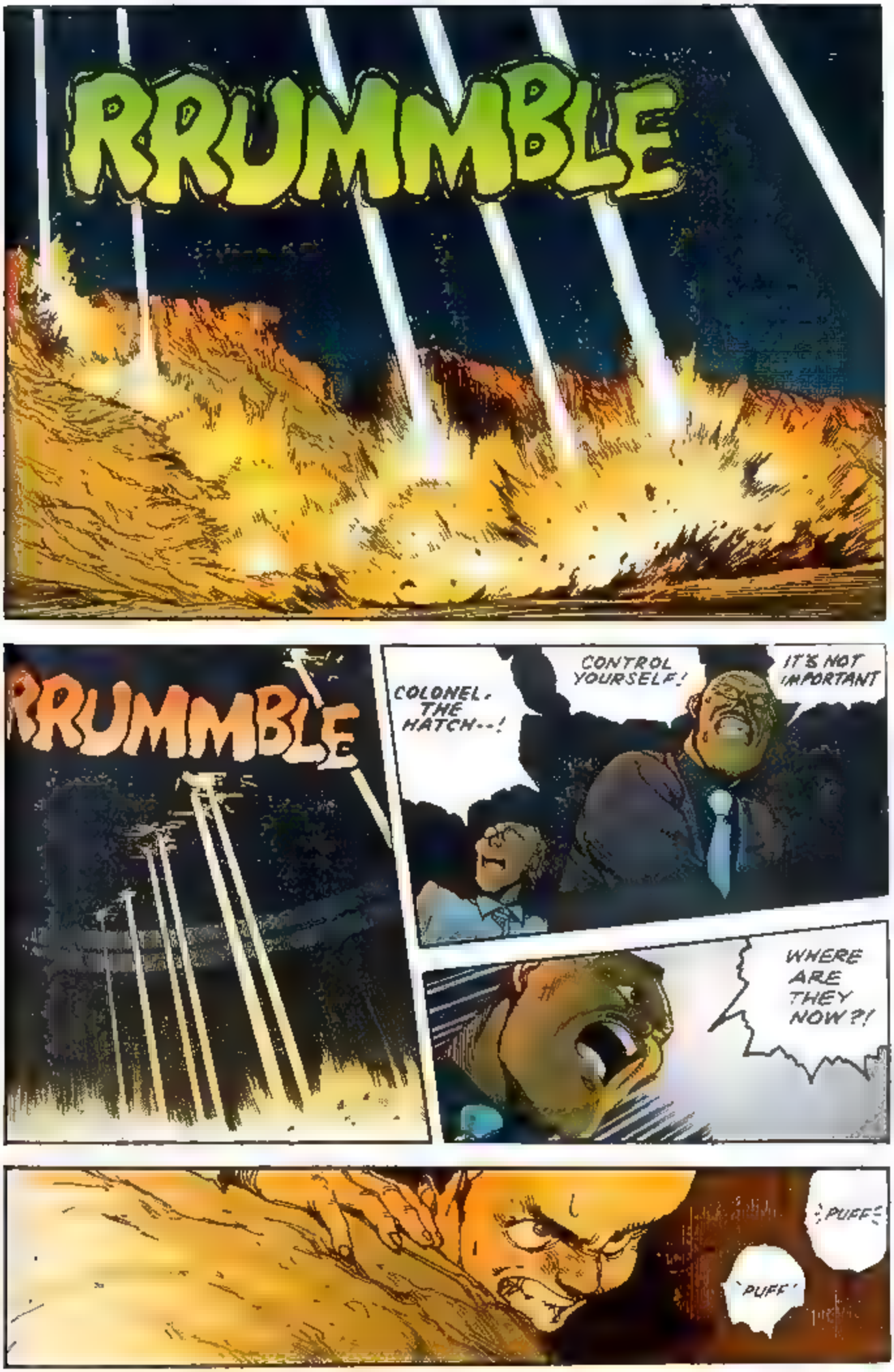
KLOOOM
RUN!
YIPE!
THIS WAY!
YEEEEK!
KERUMBLE

HIRAA
GASP!
RRUMBLE
CUT THEM IN TWOOO!
BLAM

AKIRAA!
!
KRONK


SHH
SHOOM
OMH--!
LOOK!
IT'S THE LITTLE BOY WE SAW!
SHH
SHH
SHH
SHH
rattle rattle
OOG...
VOOOM
!


HEY, STUPID, WE'RE GONNA HAVE ENOUGH TROUBLE GETTING OURSELVES OUT OF THIS WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT SOME KID
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
!
82
82


RRUMMBLE
RRUMMBLE
COLONEL. THE HATCH--!
CONTROL YOURSELF!
IT'S NOT IMPORTANT
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?!
PUFF!
PUFF!

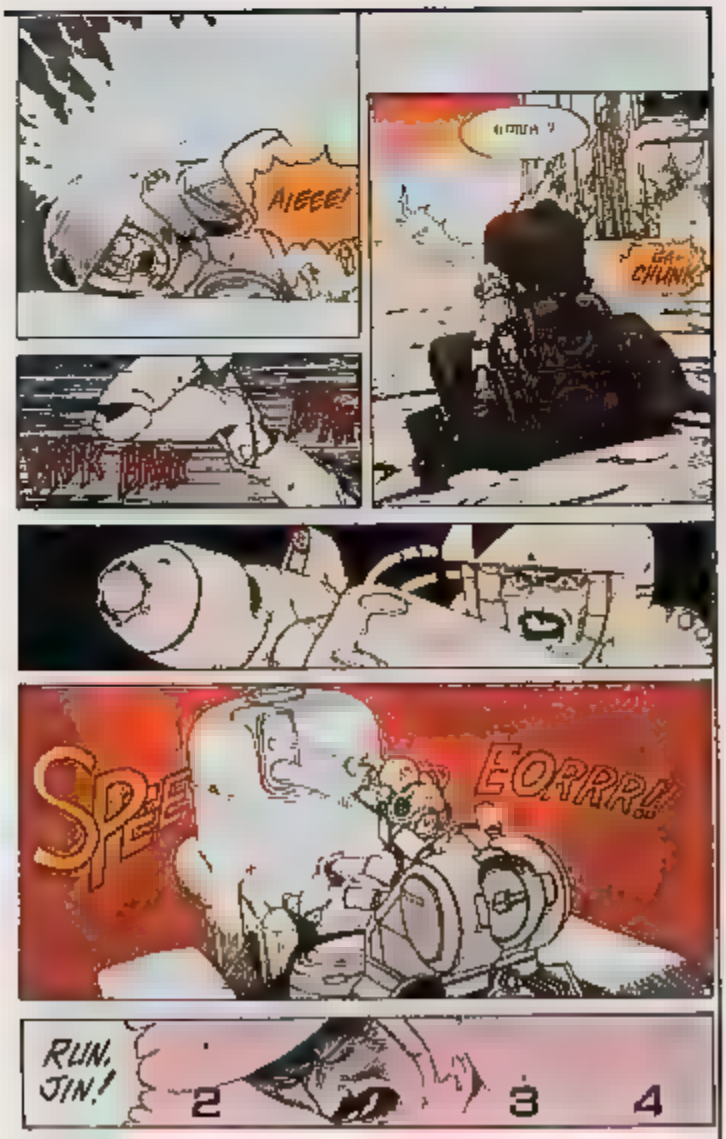
AAAH!

NEXT ISSUE: **ENTER SAKAKI**

OTOMO KATSUHIRO

ART WORK

One would imagine from the pure size of a volume of Akira that Katsuhiro Otomo would have no time left for anything else—not so. This month in your favorite comic store you should be able to find a beautiful book called **Otomo Katsuhiro Artwork—Kaba.**



It is a collection from the incredibly wide-ranging work that Otomo has done over the years. This particular piece is from a story called *Farewell to Weapons.* What is really interesting to us here is the story page (which originally appeared in *Young Magazine* under the title *Buki yo Saraba.*) is already "westernized." The sound effects were translated and balloon shapes changed to horizontals. The easy transition of the art gives you a feel for how comics are the international language.

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chief assistant to Mr. Otomo

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editor

ARCHIE GOODWIN
editor in chief

AKIRA a smal sleepy chi d awakens from a thirty-e ght year long s eep. He stumbles hes tantly to the person who woke h m Tetsuo From the chamber that has held Akira a deadly cold wave rushes forth flooding tunne s around the site The cold extinguishes the l fe from all it touches, but it is only fitting justice for ts victims are the ones who have he ped keep Akira asleep entombed...stea ing a part of his life. Akira stumb es away from his a most tomb, seek ng only the lovely warmth, fol owing Tetsuo up to the bright bl nding light of the sun Across Neo-Tokyo the civ lian defense claxon sounds, people scrambl ng for shelter What do they fear? It is only a child wak ng from a nap.

KATSUHIRO OTOMO'S

AKIRA

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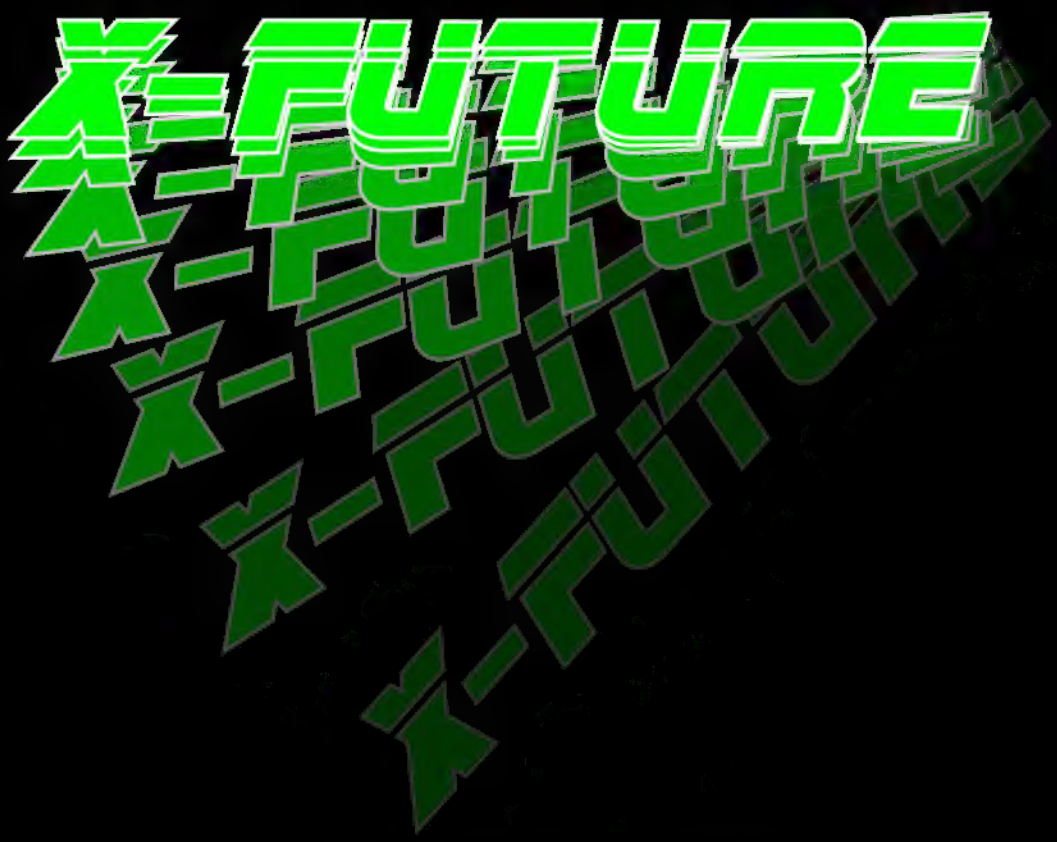

I love um

I buy um

I preserve um

VOOM
AA-AAH!

AKIRAAA!
EEEEK!

...RYU...
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WANTED TO RESCUE THIS KID, SO NOW COME I GET STUCK CARRY-ING HIM?!
AAAAAAAAA